Condition of mobile services in Uttaranchal

†1046. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when the mobile services in the State of Uttaranchal had been affected and the number of complaints regarding connectivity received from the subscribers during the last six months;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware of this fact that the process of improvement and extension of mobile services in Uttaranchal is very slow; and

(c) if so, by when the condition of mobile services would be improved in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Some Base Transreceiver Stations(BTS) cellsites of the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) cellular mobile service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have been interrupted in Uttaranchal State during the last six months for short duration due to Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) break down. These were mainly due to road widening work, frequent power failures etc. for which immediate action for restoration was taken by BSNL.

As per presently available records in Uttaranchal State, complaints have been received on various issues relating to mobile services, however, no specific complaint has been received regarding connectivity in Uttaranchal.

(b) The GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL is working satisfactorily in Uttaranchal State and is in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The cellular mobile network of BSNL in Uttaranchal State is continuously augmented and optimized for its performance. The network is also continuously monitored by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

BSNL has augmented its cellular radio network capacity in Uttaranchal from 115570 to 320208. Further, a target has been set for releasing 1,00,000 GSM based cellular mobile connections during the current financial year.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

STD/ISD/PCO booths in Uttaranchal

1047. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs booths set up in Uttaranchal, during the last three years, district-wise and block-wise;

(b) the number of such booths proposed to be set up during the year 2007-08; and

(c) the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths, set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), in Uttaranchal during the last three years, Telecom District-wise and Block-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). Besides, the number of STD/ISD PCO Booths provided by the private operators is 9,422.

(b) PCOs are allotted liberally by BSNL to all the applicants who are of the age of 18 years and above, subject to technical feasibility. PCOs are on demand in most of the areas. The number of booths to be installed in the year 2007-08 depends on the availability of applicants.

(c) STD/ISD/PCO franchisee of BSNL is responsible for the hiring/ furnishing for premises, construction of booths, procurement of telephone instrument, PCO monitor etc. only telephone line is provided by BSNL. No separate fund is earmarked for PCO lines as these are part of the project for direct exchange lines.